

THE JOURNAL

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Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee because of the violence of the land, of the city and of all that dwell therein.—Habakkuk II, 8.

THE ASSEMBLY BILL

IT SEEMS incredible that the assembly bill can pass. Yet nobody knows what might happen. There might be a slip. Many of those who publicly oppose it will secretly aid it.

The brigadiers who were leaders in assemblyism before, still believe in the plan. Some of them profess to have changed, but they haven't. Their claims that public affairs are against it are merely for public consumption. They will secretly vote for the assembly bill and, wherever they can, secretly induce their friends to vote for it.

In addition, there are thousands of newcomers in the state who do not know the conditions that prevailed before the Oregon system was adopted. They know nothing of the rump conventions, Simon conventions, Mitchell conventions, regular conventions, independent conventions and the other depths of disgrace into which corrupt politics descended before the Oregon system went into effect. Being uninformed on these things, they might easily be led into support of the assembly bill.

In any event, every friend of the direct primary should be on guard and alert. This attempt will have to be fought just as was the attempt at assemblyism in 1910.

The mere fact that the backers of the bill have sufficient confidence in their strength to come out boldly before the people and submit their measure is convincing proof that the people must be on their guard.

The fight will be no child's play. Every friend of the direct primary in this state must be vigilant, or we may all lose the incomparable privilege in which the citizen of Oregon has the right to go to the ballot box and directly exercise an influence on public affairs.

THE \$1500 EXEMPTION

THE \$1500 exemption would take taxes off the moderately well to do and pile them on the poor on the other—Oregonian. The Oregonian knows better. The first thing the \$1500 exemption does is to repeal the present law, which exempts all household furniture. There are mansions in Portland in which furniture was taxed on \$10,000, or \$12,000, or \$14,000, before the present law went into effect, but on which nothing is paid now. It is the exemption law which the Oregonian wants retained because it is a law from which the very rich get splendid benefits.

That law is repealed by the \$1500 exemption, and every taxpayer, whether rich or poor, is given the right to \$1500 exemption on "dwelling house, household furniture, livestock, machinery, orchard trees, vines, bushes, shrubs, nursery stock, merchandise, buildings and other improvements."

Why not state the facts as they are and let the people adopt or reject the measure on its merits?

MR. HUSTON'S ATTACK

MR. GEER, who went to Arizona to tell the people there that the Oregon system was worse than poison, smote Senator Chamberlain Thursday.

Mr. S. B. Huston, the most outspoken enemy in this state of the Oregon system, smote Senator Chamberlain Friday. What a splendid pair to stand up before people as the bone and sinew, the inspiration and the lifeblood of the opposition to Senator Chamberlain!

Mr. Huston is perhaps as fierce and uncompromising a hater of popular rule as is John Rockefeller. He is the essence of reaction. When in 1910 the first effort to overthrow popular government was on, Mr. Huston was in the front rank.

He was a delegate to the Multnomah county assembly. He was the candidate of the corporations for chairman of that assembly. He received 298 votes and was beaten by Mr. Stapleton, the candidate of the advisory committee.

Mr. Huston made a keynote speech, in which he said the assembly was needed to make the primary system "workable." He did not say so, but what he meant was that the people do not know enough to select officials and that an assembly of high-brows is needed to "advise" them. He did not say so, but what he meant was that the common people have sense enough to plough and plant,

WHY TAXES ARE HIGH—NO. 9

POINTED explanation of why taxes are high in this state is found in the following:

We, the undersigned members of the Oregon State Senate hereby agree with each other that we will remain in session for a period of five days after the forty (40) days' period shall have elapsed, for the purpose of considering the veto messages of the governor, if any, if necessary shall arise therefor, and will remain in session to consider and dispose of said vetoed messages.

This extraordinary agreement was entered into by members of the Senate and House at the 1913 session. It is an agreement without parallel or precedent in Oregon legislative history.

Outside of the legislative machine which "dominated" that session, nobody knows just how many members of either house signed this agreement. It has been variously conjectured at about twenty in the Senate and about forty in the House. It is an example of the enterprises and activities the machine was engaged in at the 1913 session.

One of the main ends for which this agreement was made was to pass a number of bills raising salaries of officials in various counties. In all, there were twenty-one such bills. All were vetoed by Governor West. Nineteen of them were passed over the veto. The immediate consequence was the addition of many thousands of dollars to the public taxes.

The agreement to adjourn was carried out to the letter, and after an interim of five days, the legislators returned to Salem. A secret caucus was held by the machine members. Senator Joseph and Senator Kellaher walked into the caucus room, and became the objects of a strong protest. Speeches were made in which it was made clear to them that their presence was objectionable to the caucusers, and, after a time, the two unwelcome senators withdrew.

The salary raises affected all kinds of officials. The opposition of Governor West was based on protests filed with him by citizens of the counties involved. Of the twenty-one vetoes that he applied to the bills, however, only two were effective. Nineteen of the bills were passed in spite of his vetoes.

Most remarkable was the passage in the Senate of a bill raising the salary of the Clackamas county school superintendent from \$1000 to \$1600 over the protest of Senator Dimick himself the senator from Clackamas. He was willing to allow an increase of \$1200, but the machine took the matter out of his hands and boosted it to \$1600.

Another instance is even more remarkable. So eager was the machine to pass salary raises that it passed two bills raising the same salary. One of these bills is found on page 770 and the other on page 773, 1913 session laws. Both bills raise the salary of the county school superintendent of Columbia county.

Both bills were passed by both houses, and both passed over the governor's veto, and both were passed by the machine over the veto as a result of the remarkable agreement by the machine, which is:

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and work, and hoe, and stand behind counters, and run machines, and operate stores and banks and mills, but that they haven't sense enough to pick out candidates for office without the assistance of Mr. Huston and Mr. Geer and Ralph Williams and "Pat" McArthur.

As a corporation lawyer who sees things from the viewpoint of the corporations, Mr. Huston's thoughts of things are different from the average man's thoughts of things. He cannot be a supporter of Senator Chamberlain because Senator Chamberlain was defending the Oregon system when Mr. Huston was trying to pull down the Oregon system.

But Mr. Huston's attack on Senator Chamberlain is of value, in that it illuminates the situation. It shows the people of this state that the old reactionaries are rising and are going to try to seize the government.

Booth, who voted against the primary bill; Withycombe, who still thinks there ought to be an assembly to "eliminate" candidates; McArthur, who championed the Bean-Brooke bill to make Statement One a crime; Geer, who went to Arizona to tell the people to avoid the Oregon system as they would the plague, and Huston, who thinks the people don't know enough to select fit candidates. Such is the phalanx.

Such is the ticket and such its managing men.

GOOD ROADS

THE state of Oregon has made considerable progress this year in the improvement of its highways. Several of the counties have assumed a bonded indebtedness to undertake the construction of important roads. There is a great responsibility resting upon those having road improvement in charge. It is incumbent upon them to see that the money is economically expended and that a dollar's worth of road is obtained for every dollar spent. As a general principle the taxpayer does not object to the disbursement of a large sum of money provided full value for it is received.

The people have realized the economical value of good roads and they will be very much disappointed if they do not secure them. If county courts should fritter away the money in playing politics there will be a great reaction in the good roads movement.

They should be held to a strict accountability by the voters who should always be on guard.

CAPITALIZE MT. HOOD

THE Ad club, which has enlisted in the movement to capitalize Oregon scenery, is proceeding in a practical way towards the construction of a highway to Mt. Hood.

Preliminary steps have been taken, first to have a survey made and second to secure legislation which will enable Multnomah county to construct the highway through Clackamas county. As Portland will be the direct beneficiary of a highway to the mountain it seems eminently proper that the construction should be borne by it. It is not anticipated that Clackamas county will interpose any objection to its doing so.

The progressiveness of the Ad club is shown in its advocacy of a road 24 feet wide with a gradient not to exceed five per cent. This is the standard set by the state highway commission as the

one best adapted to the immediate future. In undertaking to capitalize its scenic assets, Portland is but following a movement that is general throughout the United States and one that has been greatly stimulated by the interruption of American tourist travel to Europe by war.

Every community that has anything in the way of natural interest is joining in the, "See America First" cry and is making preparation to get a share of the tourist business.

In natural attractions there is no spot that can compare or compete with Oregon.

columns along the line of war sympathies, which is partly guesswork, we discover a total of \$73,648 presumably hoping the allies may win and 711,605 entertaining a similar wish for Germany and Austria.

Chicago may be taken as typical of most large American cities. The census shows what a great melting pot of nations the United States is. It also emphasizes the appeal of President Wilson to observe a strict neutrality in act and speech. If the hatreds and jealousies inherited from European ancestry were allowed to enter the melting pot it would soon boil over.

Letters From The People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 150 words, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the contributor. The writer does not desire to have the name published, unless stated to the contrary.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It kills the false and false capacity and throws them back on their consciences if they have no consciences. It rubs the eyes of the ignorant and the stupid, and shows them the way to the light."—Woodrow Wilson.

Public Market and Grocers. Lents, Or., Oct. 3.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In The Journal of September 27, a Hawthorne avenue grocer criticized the market here, saying it ought not to be anything more coming from the city to benefit the producers who use the Yamhill public market. The market has been changed for their produce. He quotes their prices on potatoes at 1.50 per sack, while he was charging only \$1.00. I suppose he thought other grocers were getting the benefit of the market. He is quite positive that the farmers were asking a whole lot more for their potatoes than the grocers, or even wholesale buyers.

Now, I know positively of three grocers on that date that were charging 1.75, 1.85 and \$2 per sack and giving the names if necessary, and probably the names of the farmers who sold to them in the public market. I am a producer, and have sold considerable in the public market, and while I do not claim perfection, either for the farmers or the market, I think the grocers are getting the benefit of the market and not the farmers. I am a producer, and have sold considerable in the public market, and while I do not claim perfection, either for the farmers or the market, I think the grocers are getting the benefit of the market and not the farmers.

The greatest mistake the court made was in hitching up with the state highway commission, through its speaking and promising to do the work of the county justice. The recall petition was got out and started on their way by men who made the failure of the court to follow the state highway commission's plan a matter of course. The recall petition was only an excuse for a recall. But the main body of voters voted for the recall because there was general dissatisfaction with the court caused by high road taxes, and too small a portion of the taxes being returned to local roads, nearly all from some sections being diverted to the Columbia highway, and it was the effort of the court to save some of the taxes, at least, for the local roads that got them into disfavor with those who own the roads.

The adoption in November of the bill to establish a department of industry and commerce would be a step in the right direction and for the "right to work" bill. W. H. BLACK.

An Enterprise Disowned.

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 30.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Information has been received from a reliable source representing a book selling and correspondence course commercial enterprise, with headquarters in Minneapolis, that it is disowning the statement published in your issue of September 29, in which it was stated that the University of Minnesota had no connection, directly or indirectly, with any commercial educational agency. The University of Minnesota has no connection, directly or indirectly, with any commercial educational agency. The University of Minnesota has no connection, directly or indirectly, with any commercial educational agency.

Eminent Voices Against Saloon.

Portland, Oct. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—It is not necessary to heap all the criticism upon the "paid agitators." There are others that are spelling victory for the prohibition cause. The saloon must go. The saloon must go. The saloon must go. The saloon must go. The saloon must go.

The Booth Lumber Camps.

Corvallis, Or., Oct. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—It is not necessary to presume that the question of severity of exploitation of the workingmen employed by the Booth-Lumber Company is a matter of indifference to you. "Where Booth got it" between you and his defenders. I wonder if Mr. Booth ever knew that at Wendling there is a big block barn appearing bunkhouse which has a number of rooms with mattresses and iron beds for which one pays at the rate of 12 1/2 cents per night? I wonder also if he knows that the men who work there are at least never so long ago, on the bonus plan; that is, their pay graduated according to how much they would clear for the company in a year? Upon the trip from Wendling to the farther camps one passes a group of shacks that would even be a disgrace to the big block barn appearing bunkhouse 20 years ago. One would think such an exponent of the Y. M. C. A. and Christianity would certainly, inasmuch as lumber about there is so cheap, have a decent shelter for his "hired hands" to live in. And these are the bunkhouses. That they are miserable in the extreme can be testified by anyone who has been forced to live in one.

Above all, how about the pay? I will take the common laborers: Their pay is never above \$2.25 per hour. Say one gets in a full week, which means \$13.50. Board and room are

\$5.05; hospital 25 cents per week. He has \$1.50 left. Now for a common laborer: This is exceptional for there are a lot of men who do not get over \$2 per day. And then again this bunkhouse charge. Mr. Wendling has paid for himself over and over again.

Mr. Booth and Mr. Dixon are great believers in organization; that is, an organization of the lumber interests. He has employed around his different camps a group of stool pigeons who "turn in" any of the "hands" who are in the camps fallers, buckers, etc., work under that sort of a system. The bonus system, the working man who would vote for such a mean, severe and critical exploiter ought to be made, together with all of his kind, to slave for Booth forever and ever. I hate and despise hypocritical admirers like Wendling alone, however—such a man as H. G. Otis of Los Angeles, but one who approaches you with an outer concealment and throughout you a decent wage, a decent living, I despise.

The Columbia County Recall.

The Dalles, Or., Oct. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In Wednesday's Journal appeared an item from Columbia county in which the statement was made that the recall petition was recalled for not following the state highway commission's surveys and plans for the Columbia highway. That statement is doing the voters of the county justice. The recall petition was got out and started on their way by men who made the failure of the court to follow the state highway commission's plan a matter of course. The recall petition was only an excuse for a recall. But the main body of voters voted for the recall because there was general dissatisfaction with the court caused by high road taxes, and too small a portion of the taxes being returned to local roads, nearly all from some sections being diverted to the Columbia highway, and it was the effort of the court to save some of the taxes, at least, for the local roads that got them into disfavor with those who own the roads.

From the Lincoln Star.

Nothing in our life so remarkable and encouraging as ever occurred in the history of the government's relations to the banks of the country as the recent brusque notification to the bankers of the fact that the secretary of the treasury that they have no excuse for hoarding money at this time, and that they must quit it on pain of the government's displeasure. The bankers who have hoarded money in view of the prostration in Europe created by the war.

Secretary McAdoo has declared that he will immediately withdraw all government deposits from banks found to be hoarding money. The government has recently turned over to them \$100,000,000 of the people's money, the purpose being to help in a revival of business and industry and confidence.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. It's generally better to be a small success than a big failure. It isn't always the winner who wears a winning smile. Style is one of the principal ingredients in a dressmaker's bill. A woman is never popular with a man for as long as she does. Fortunate is the woman who is too busy to have the time to love. Don't let your light under a bush-bud; use a reflector to make the most of it.

In most cases the milk of human kindness yields more buttermilk than butter. He is a wise candidate who sticks to his regular job until he gets into office. Some people's idea of a bargain is a 50 cent article marked down to 49—that may be worth 40.

It serves a man right if he marries a suffragette and has to take in white-washing to support her. There are lots of good people on earth, and there are more about six feet below the crust.

A ragtime philosopher says that some men are inclined to blow out their brains because they haven't any. Almost any man may work himself almost any degree of popularity with his neighbors by raising the level of his intelligence on an uninhabited island in mid-ocean.

Nothing in our life so remarkable and encouraging as ever occurred in the history of the government's relations to the banks of the country as the recent brusque notification to the bankers of the fact that the secretary of the treasury that they have no excuse for hoarding money at this time, and that they must quit it on pain of the government's displeasure.

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IN EARLIER DAYS

Go down on Front street and you will see an old gray horse hitched to an express wagon. As you pass, the old gray horse and its gray haired driver will look at you speculatively to see if you are looking for an express wagon. The driver is Adam McNamee, who came to Portland in the spring of 1846 when Portland consisted of six or seven houses and one store. We sat on the curbing together a few days ago, and he told me of Portland's early days: "When I was going on nine years old," he said, "my father, Job McNamee, went to the gold mines in California. That was in the spring of 1849, in 1849 Portland was a town of women and children. Almost all the men folks had gone to the mines. My father had good luck and made money. He bought a stock of liquors in San Francisco and shipped it up to Portland. He fitted up a saloon on Front between Yamhill and Taylor streets. He used to go to the House. He ran it for three or four years and made lots of money. Money was plentiful in the early fifties. 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